

9400662

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Hercules Company Office Building Survey Number: B-5055  
1435 Key Highway, Baltimore  
Project: ISTEA Enhancement- Harborwalk Agency: FHWA/SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no      yes Name                      Date             

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended     

Criteria: X A      B      C      D Considerations:      A      B      C      D      E      F      G      None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)  
Based on available information, the Hercules Company office building located at Key Highway appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion for its association with Baltimore's shipbuilding industry. From the nineteenth century to the present day, businesses related to shipping and ship building have been located in this section of the city, on the Northwest Branch of the Patapsco River, just south of Federal Hill and the Baltimore Harbor. The Hercules Company apparently established a shipyard at this site in the 1930s. Nearby concerns have included the Bethlehem Steel shipyards and the Copper Paint Company, which produced marine coatings. The General Ship Repair firm remains in operation to the south of the subject property, but many of the maritime related businesses have disappeared from the area. According to the site history prepared by WAPORA:

The parcel was purchased by the Hercules and LaVeck families in the 1930s. Both established ship assembly and maintenance companies on the site....During the 1930s, the two buildings facing Key Highway along the southern property line were built. Only one building which was used for offices is still standing. The smaller building to the west is indicated by a 1939 Sanborn map as rope storage. A concrete building foundation remains.

Another source, the June, 1946 issue of Power Pictorial suggests that the Hercules Company office building was completed in 1946. Despite the lack of certainty about the construction date, we believe the office building is significant for its association with the ship building industry, which was a major Baltimore industry, contributing to its prosperity and influencing many aspects of the city's development. In addition, the Hercules Company may have constructed landing craft during World War II. If so, the property would be significant for its association with the massive shipbuilding effort which took place in Baltimore during the war. Over 600 ships were constructed in the city's shipyards and thousands repaired during World War II. If the building was indeed completed in 1946, it may reflect the prosperity that the Hercules Company enjoyed as a result of the wartime shipbuilding and repair effort.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, SHA

Elizabeth Hannold April 18, 1994  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:      yes      no      not applicable

*f. Andros*

4-18-94

*gnd*

Survey No. B-5055

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,  
Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,  
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

☐ Agriculture  
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
and Community Planning  
☒ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☐ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

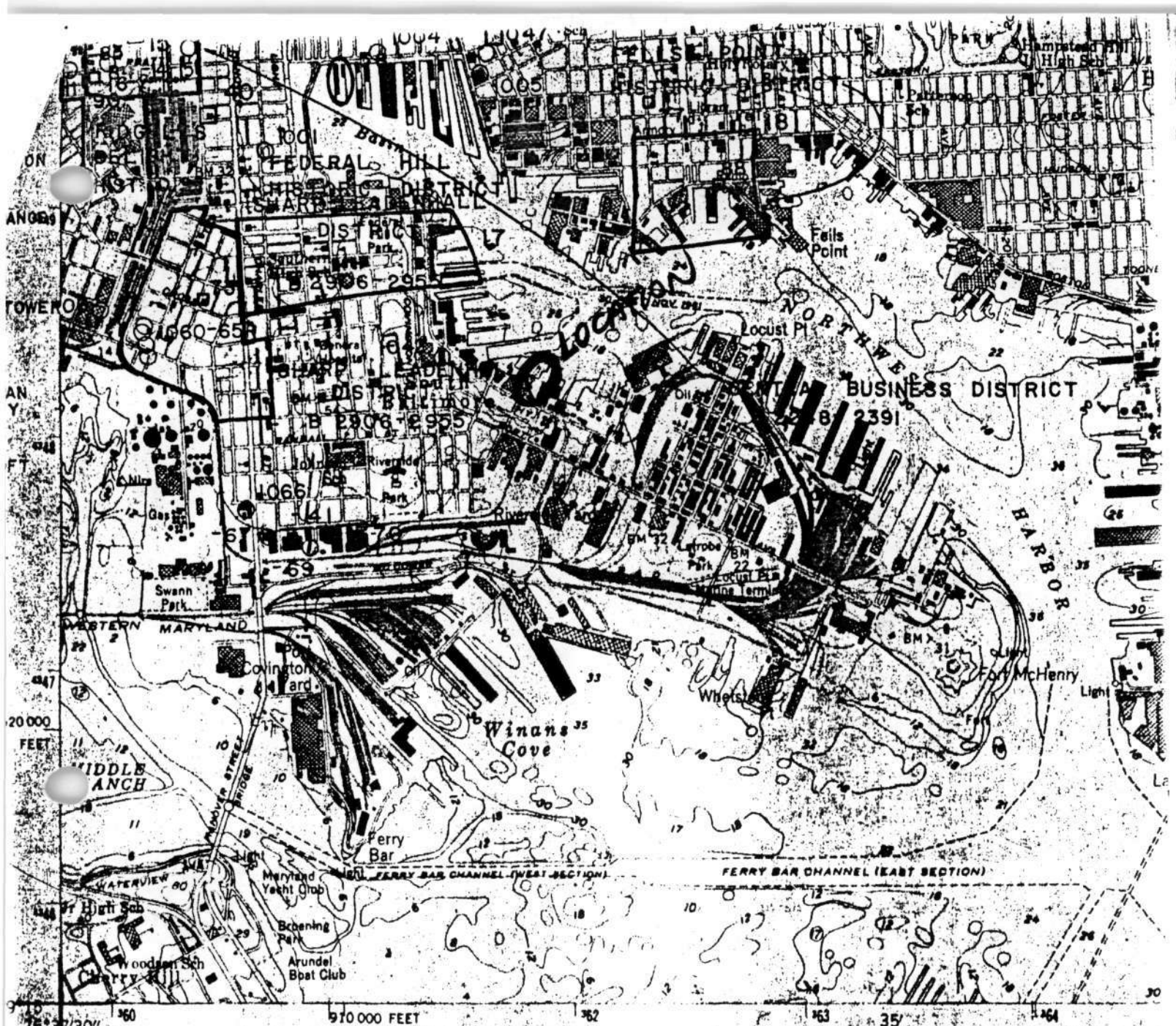
V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commercial, Industrial

Known Design Source: Unknown



Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE and City of Baltimore  
 Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1944  
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953  
 Hydrography compiled from USC&GS Chart 545 (1951)  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system.  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.  
 Revisions shown in purple compiled by Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1966. This information not field checked  
 Blue tint indicates extension of urban areas

# MAR KEY

□, □ INDIVIDUAL NR LOCATION

267 MILS 0°59' 18 MILS

BOUNDARIES FOR NR HISTORIC DISTRICT CURVES AND SHORELINE SHOW THE

BOUNDARIES FOR LOCALLY ZONED HISTORIC D

GRID AND DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COM  
 FOR SALE BY U.S  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TO

B-5055  
 Baltimore, East Quad